

FILED ELECTRONICALLY

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appl. No. : 10/025,515 Confirmation No. 6307  
Applicants : William E. Webler, et al.  
Filed : December 18, 2001  
Title : ROTATABLLE FERRULES AND INTERFACES FOR USE WITH AN  
OPTICAL GUIDEWIRE  
Art Unit : 3739  
Examiner : John P. Leubecker  
  
Docket No.: : ACSG 60271 (G2168US01)  
Customer No. : 24201 August 20, 2007

REQUEST FOR ORAL HEARING

MS: Appeal Brief Patents  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

1. REQUEST FOR ORAL HEARING

Applicants hereby request an oral hearing of the Appeal in this application.

2. TERM FOR REQUEST

The Examiner's answer was mailed on August 10, 2007 and the term for filing the request is two months from that mailing date. Accordingly, this request has been timely made.

3. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is the following party: Advanced Cardiovascular Systems, Inc., 3200 Lakeside Drive, Santa Clara, California 95054.

4. TOTAL FEE DUE

The total fee due is \$1,000.00

It is respectfully requested that this Request for Oral Hearing be entered and the fee paid by credit card with this electronic transmission. The commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 06-2425.

Respectfully submitted,

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## CLAIMS

1. An elongated intracorporeal optical instrument, comprising:
  - a. an elongated shaft having a longitudinal axis and proximal and distal portions having ends, the proximal portion having a substantially constant outer diameter, an optical pathway configured for passing optical radiation, and an internal surface having a proximal portion and defining an internal chamber within the elongated shaft extending to the optical pathway;
  - b. an elongated optical fiber extending substantially an entire length of said internal chamber of said elongated shaft; and
  - c. a ferrule directly connected to said optical fiber and having a distal portion with a diameter and an outer surface, a proximal portion with a substantially constant outer diameter and an outer surface, the outer diameter being substantially the same as the outer diameter of the elongated shaft proximal portion, and configured to have a first position in which said ferrule is secured to the elongated shaft and a second position in which the ferrule is released from the elongated shaft and is free to rotate around said longitudinal axis.
2. The optical instrument of claim 1 wherein the ferrule is configured to be secured to the elongated shaft by a friction fit.
3. The optical instrument of claim 2, wherein said friction fit comprises contact between at least a portion of said ferrule outer surface and a portion of said elongated shaft inner surface.
4. The elongated intracorporeal optical instrument of claim 1, wherein said intracorporeal instrument comprises an optical guidewire.

5. The optical instrument of claim 2, wherein said ferrule distal outer surface comprises a surface selected from the group consisting of cylindrical surfaces, tapered surfaces, rounded surfaces, and combinations thereof.

8. The optical instrument of claim 1, wherein said ferrule proximal portion is configured to form an operable optical connection with another optical instrument.

9. The optical instrument of claim 1, wherein said ferrule proximal portion is configured to form an operable mechanical connection with another instrument.

17. A system comprising:

an optical instrument having an optical connector and a rotatable mechanical connector, and an optical guidewire, said optical guidewire comprising:

an elongated shaft having a longitudinal axis, a diameter and proximal and distal portions having ends, the proximal portion having a substantially constant outer diameter, an optical pathway in the distal portion configured for passing optical radiation, and an internal surface defining an internal chamber within the elongated shaft extending to the passage in the distal end;

an elongated optical fiber extending substantially an entire length of the internal chamber of the elongated shaft; and

a ferrule directly connected to said optical fiber and having a distal portion and a proximal portion, the proximal portion having a substantially constant outer diameter being substantially the same as the outer diameter of the shaft proximal portion and configured to have a position in which the ferrule is free to rotate around said longitudinal axis with respect to the elongated shaft, said ferrule being configured to engage said optical connector effective to pass optical radiation between said optical fiber and said optical instrument, said ferrule further

configured to engage said rotatable mechanical connector effective that said ferrule rotates when engaged to said mechanical connector while said mechanical connector rotates.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein said ferrule is releasably engaged with said elongated shaft, wherein said ferrule is configured to be free to rotate around said longitudinal axis with respect to the elongated shaft when said ferrule is retracted from said internal chamber.

31. The optical instrument of claim 1, wherein the ferrule distal portion is configured to be disposed within the shaft internal chamber.

32. The optical instrument of claim 1, wherein the proximal portion of the shaft defines a slot.

33. The optical instrument of claim 17, wherein the ferrule distal portion is configured to be disposed within the shaft internal chamber.

34. The optical instrument of claim 17, wherein the proximal portion of the shaft defines a slot.

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